



Introduced Version

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 32

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing that the “Say’s Firefly” be designated as Indiana’s State insect.

ALTING

February 11, 2016 , read first time and referred to Committee on Public Policy.



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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing that the “Say’s
2 Firefly” be designated as Indiana’s State insect.

3 *Whereas, Insects constitute 80 percent of the world's*
4 *animal species and are critical to the ecological balance of our*
5 *planet as decomposers, recyclers, pollinators of flowering*
6 *plants, and are an important food source for many animals and*
7 *even some plants;*

8 *Whereas, The insect known as a "firefly" or "lightning*
9 *bug," is really neither a fly nor a bug, but rather it is a soft-*
10 *bodied beetle that produces light through a complex chemical*
11 *reaction in special cells located near the end of its abdomen;*

12 *Whereas, Spectacular nighttime displays of the flashing*
13 *lights of fireflies are common from June through September in*
14 *the croplands, roadsides, grasslands, and forests of the eastern*
15 *United States, from the Missouri River to the Atlantic Ocean;*

16 *Whereas, Male fireflies flash their lights in a series of short*
17 *or long bursts to impress female fireflies, and receptive females*
18 *respond with flashes of their own;*

19 *Whereas, Hoosiers have long enjoyed the beauty and*
20 *mystique of firefly displays, which inspired James Whitcomb*
21 *Riley to write:*
22 *"The fireflies, like golden seeds,*



1 *Are sown about the night.";*

2 *Whereas, Thomas Say, an eminent naturalist who lived and*
3 *worked in New Harmony in Posey County and is considered the*
4 *Father of American Entomology, named "Say's Firefly" in*
5 *1824;*

6 *Whereas, Indiana has a state tree (the tulip poplar), a state*
7 *flower (the peony), and a state bird (the cardinal), but is one of*
8 *only four states that do not recognize the contribution insects*
9 *make to the quality of our lives by having an official state*
10 *insect; and*

11 *Whereas, The designation of a state insect would provide*
12 *a unique teaching opportunity for educators and a point of*
13 *pride for citizens of Indiana: Therefore,*

14 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
15 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

16 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly proposes the
17 declaration of the Indiana State insect as the "Say's Firefly," because
18 of the insect's ecological benefits, the lack of a current state insect, and
19 the educational opportunities that the establishment of a state insect
20 would allow.

21 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
22 transmit a copy of this Resolution to Cumberland Elementary Teacher,
23 Maggie Samudio.

